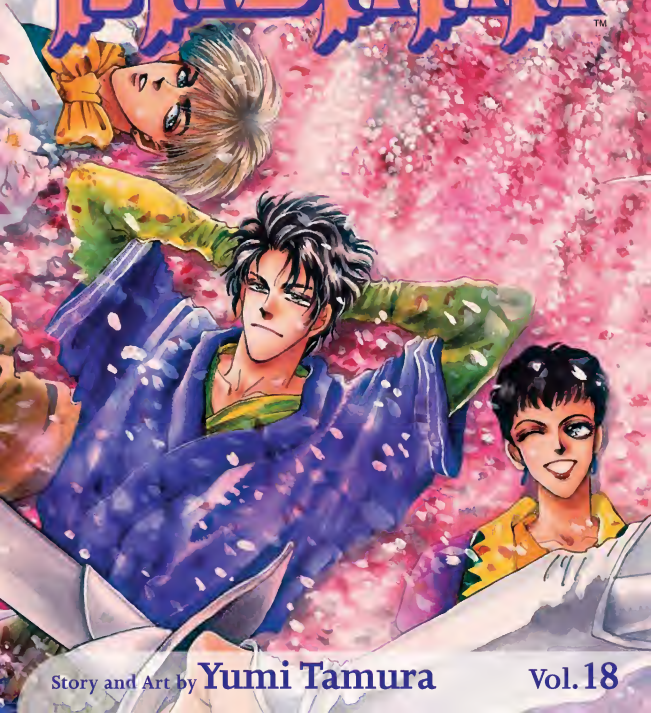


BASARA™



Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol. 18



shôjo

BASARA™

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Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #18

Shôjo Edition

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BASARA is rated T+ for Older Teen
and is recommended for ages 16 and
up. Contains realistic violence.



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Sarasa (disguised as Tatara)

Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born under a prophecy of hope. The Red King's forces killed Tatara, so Sarasa took up her brother's name to fight in his guise. Although generally a secret, she has confessed her gender to her closest allies. During past visits to hot springs, she met and fell in love with Shuri, only to discover on the battlefield that he is the Red King. The trauma sent her wandering alone, but she has recovered with the help of her mother.



The Red King/Shuri

The youngest of the King of Japan's four sons, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, set on destroying Tatara's rebel insurrection. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa revealed hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Tragically, they fell in love, only to discover their true identities on the battlefield—a battle he lost. Rescued from his attempted suicide by his brother, Asagi, he has since been sold into slavery.



Kikune

One of the deadly "Four Virtues," she was originally sent by the White King to spy on the Black King in the North but has since befriended Sarasa.



Ichimatsu of Hida

One of the Black Army's "Three Lances," he is a devoted retainer of Lady Purple and is currently assigned to aid Sarasa.



Taro

A reporter with ambitions of writing the history of Tatara's exploits, Taro has followed Sarasa to the north and now to Kyoto.

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An apocalypse brought human civilization to its knees, and control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future."

Under Ukon XV's harsh rule, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. She has also proven herself in Okinawa to the south and the Tohoku region in the north. Her closest comrades now know the truth about her gender; her confession has galvanized them further.

Meanwhile, the Red King's recklessness has inspired a coup. After fleeing alone, Shuri has been forced to re-evaluate his viewpoint and start from scratch. Despite newly acquired allies in Shikoku, he has failed in battle against Tataru. Worse, although he and Sarasa have fallen in love, they have finally learned the truth about their secret identities. Torn by the discovery, Shuri attempts suicide only to be "rescued" by Asagi, who has sold him into slavery.

After being reunited with her mother in Tohoku, Sarasa has regained her emotional balance and found a new ally in Lady Purple, wife of the Black King. With Lady Purple's help, she has the chance to prove herself in the very heart of King Ukon's lands—the capital of Kyoto! Sarasa and Shuri meet in the battlefield, and are devastated to learn one another's true identities. Sarasa runs away to Kazuno, reunites with her mother, and reaffirms the sanctity of love. But what path will she choose now...?



GOLD TALE 5: ASSASSINS



AN ASSASSIN IS COMING...

I HAD A
DREAM
THAT
NIGHT.

I SAW THE
KILLER'S
FACE—
AND IT
WAS
SHURI.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hello! Thank you for all your letters of support!!

Please write me any time -- I'd love to get feedback! ♡ =



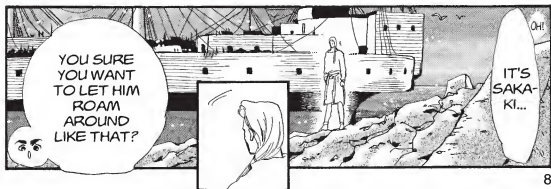
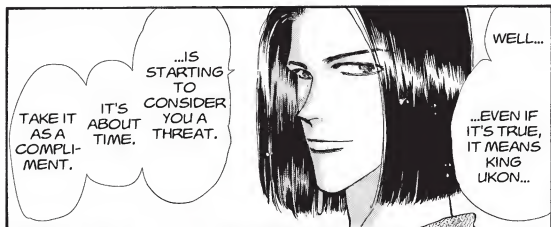
I wanted to make the cover pink this time. It was a cherry blossom theme at first, but at some point, it stopped looking like cherry blossoms, so whatever.

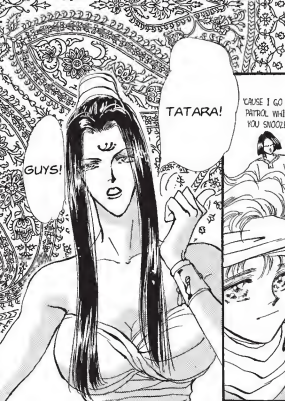
Enjoy! ♡

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY







GUYS!

TATARA!



HOW'D YOU KNOW?
'CAUSE I GO ON
PATROL WHILE
YOU SNOOZE!
YEAH?



I SEE
HIM AT
NIGHT.

HE WORKS
ON THE
WATERWAY
WHEN
NOBODY'S
LOOKIN'.

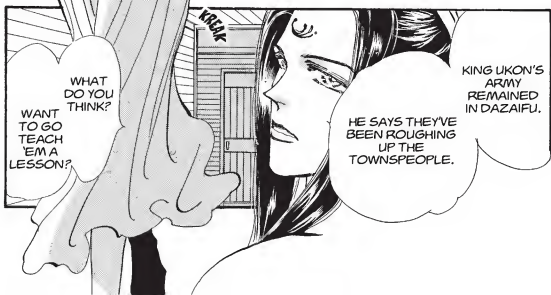
HE
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
KEEP IT
SECRET.

THE GUY
HAS
BACK-
BONE.



HE
WANTS
OUR
HELP.

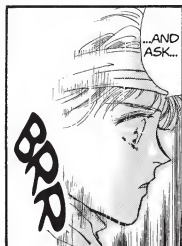
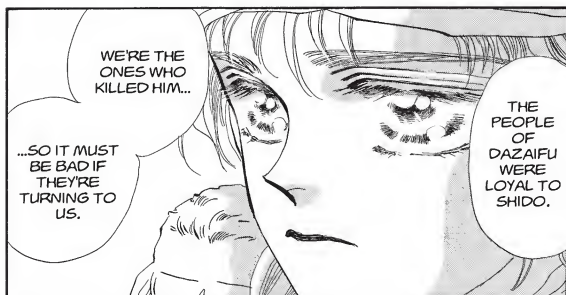
THE
DAZAIFU
YOUTH
GROUP
LEADER IS
HERE.



WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?
WANT TO GO
TEACH 'EM A
LESSON?

HE SAYS THEY'VE
BEEN ROUGHING
UP THE
TOWNSPEOPLE.

KING UKON'S
ARMY
REMAINED
IN DAZAIFU.





HE WILL NOT
FAIL TO KILL
YOU.



EVEN
I...

...DREAD
HEARING
HIS NAME.



AN
ASSASSIN
IS
COMING!



HIIRAGI -
"THE
HOLLY"!

THE
ASSASSIN IS
NAMED
AFTER A
WHITE
FLOWER.

KYOTO...

I LIVED
HERE UNTIL
I WAS
TWELVE.

IT'S SO
COLD!

BOUGHT USED
CLOTHES.

WE
NEED
TO...

SHURI?

IS IT SAFE
TO WALK
AROUND IN
BROAD
DAYLIGHT?

I STAYED
WITH MY
COUSIN'S
FAMILY.

VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME ①

Profile of Ichimatsu.
He's surprisingly popular.



Part 1

Ichimatsu of Hida.

Cancer, blood type O.
A little older than Shuri.
Lady Purple found him when he
was little and and raised him,
so he thinks of her as
his mother.
One of the Black Army's best
generals, who are referred to as
"The Three Spears."

His coat of arms is
an arrowhead.



NOTHING.

I'M NOT
SAYING WE
SHOULD GO
JOIN
TATARA OR
ANYTHING.

"NEED
TO"
WHAT?

...I WANT
YOU TO
STOP
LOOKING
SO
GLOOMY
...

IT'S
JUST
THAT...

I
SHOULD
HOPE
NOT.

WHOA

SHURI,
HEY!

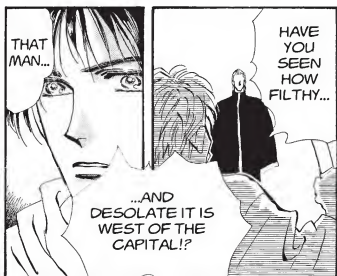
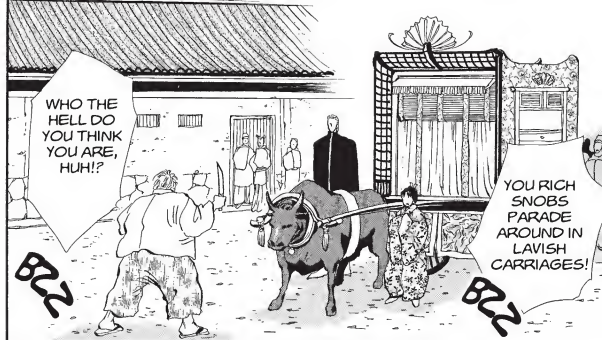
STAY
OUT OF
IT!

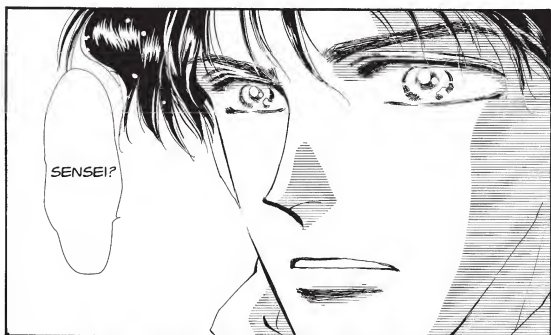
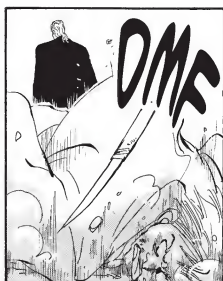
WHAT?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

IS HE
DRUNK?











GINKO...



THAT'S
THE
WHITE
KING!?

I HAVEN'T
SEEN
YOU IN
SO LONG.

YOU USED
TO VISIT
OFTEN
WHEN YOU
WERE
LITTLE.



I HEAR
THEY
CALL HER
"THE
WHITE
LADY."

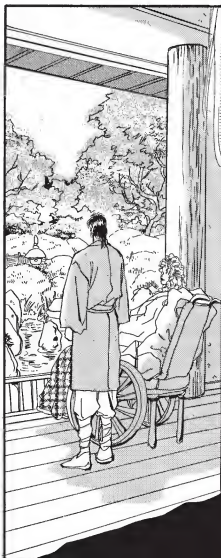


SHE'S
HOT!

THE
WHITE
KING IS A
WOMAN
?

THE WHITE MANSION IN KYOTO...







THERE'S
BEEN NO
WORD
FROM
MURATAKE...

LORD
ASAGI.

...SINCE HE
WENT TO
FETCH
KIKUNE.

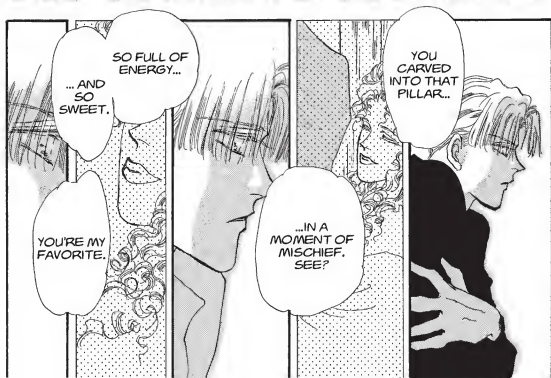
LEAVE
HIM!



WHAT
THE
HELL...

...IS
SHURI
DOING
HERE!?

KRASH



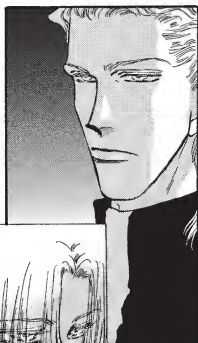
SO FULL OF
ENERGY...

...AND
SO
SWEET.

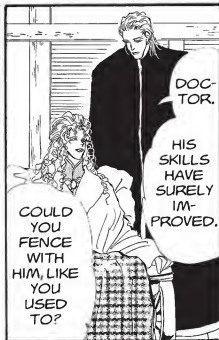
YOU'RE MY
FAVORITE.

YOU
CARVED
INTO THAT
PILLAR...

...IN A
MOMENT OF
MISCHIEF.
SEE?



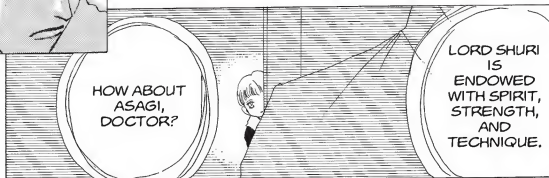
IF YOU WOULD, SIR.



DOCTOR.

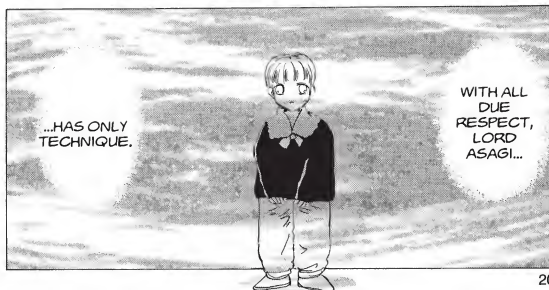
HIS SKILLS HAVE SURELY IMPROVED.

COULD YOU FENCE WITH HIM, LIKE YOU USED TO?



HOW ABOUT ASAGI, DOCTOR?

LORD SHURI IS ENDOWED WITH SPIRIT, STRENGTH, AND TECHNIQUE.



...HAS ONLY TECHNIQUE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, LORD ASAGI...

HEY!

I CAME HERE
TO BRING
DOWN THE
ROYALS WHO
ATTACKED
OKINAWA.

IF SHURI
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE IT
ANYMORE...

LOOK
AT
THAT!

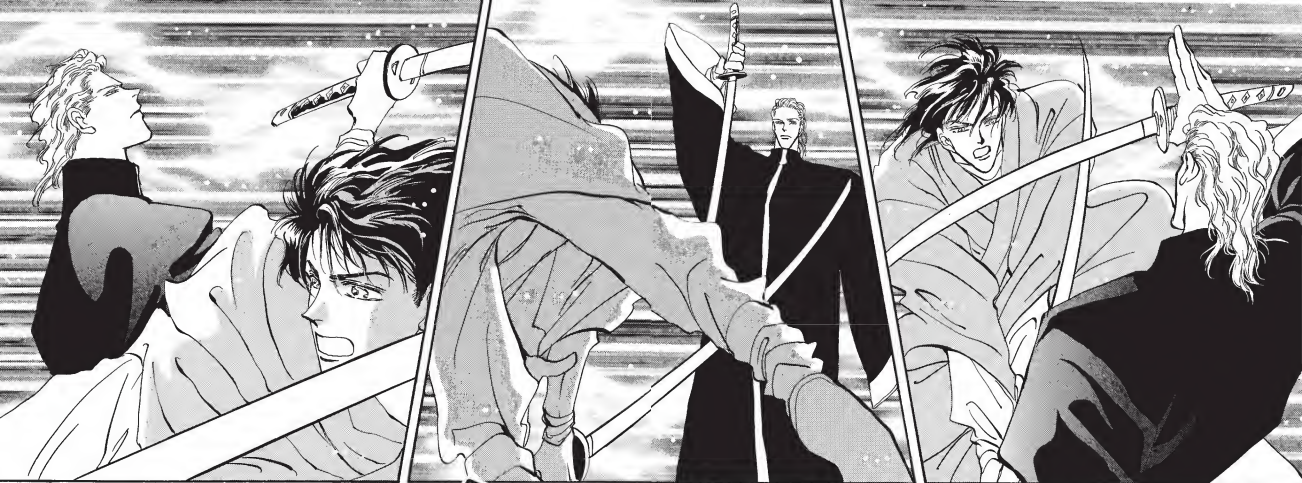
NAKI-
JIN?

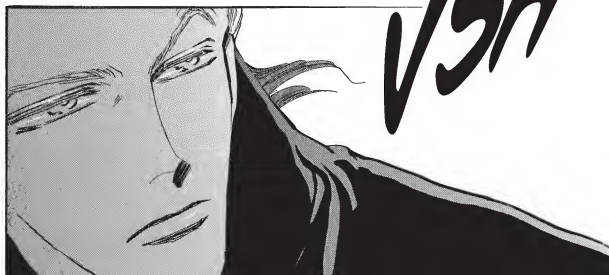
WHAT'S
SHURI
DOING?

SHE MAY BE
A NICE
SISTER, BUT
SHE'S STILL
A ROYAL.

WHAT IF THIS IS A TRAP!?

THEY'RE
BOTH
USING
REAL
SWORDS!









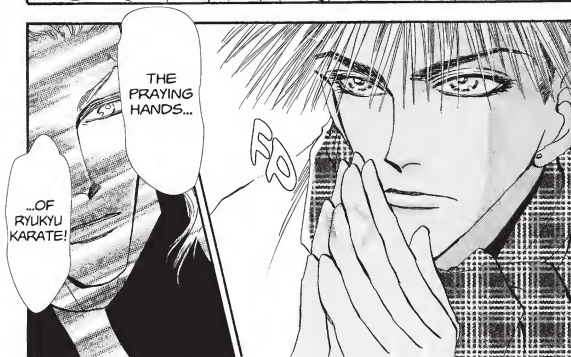
KA NG

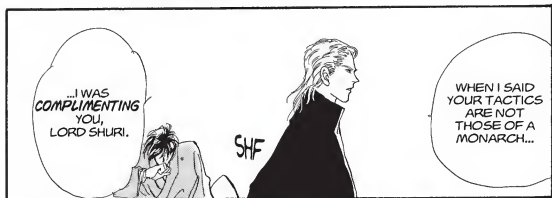
THAT
SOLVED
NOTHING.

THESE
DIRTY
TACTICS IN
YOUR
ATTEMPT
AT
STRATE-
GY...

...ARE
NOT
THOSE
OF A
REGAL
MON-
ARCH.













I
JUST RE-
MEMBERED
SOMETHING
I NEEDED
TO DO.

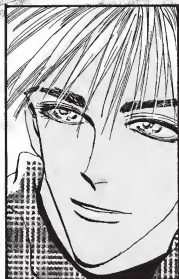
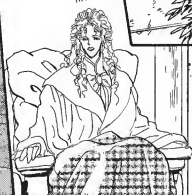
GIN-
KO!

OH?

BUT I'M
HAVING
THEM
PREPARE
FUGU, YOUR
FAVORITE.

WE
MUST
TAKE
OUR
LEAVE!

TAKE
CARE.



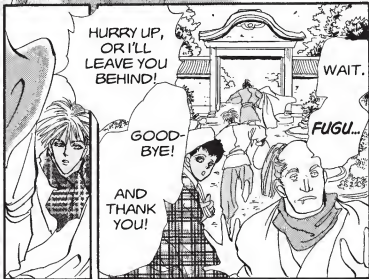
HURRY UP,
OR I'LL
LEAVE YOU
BEHIND!

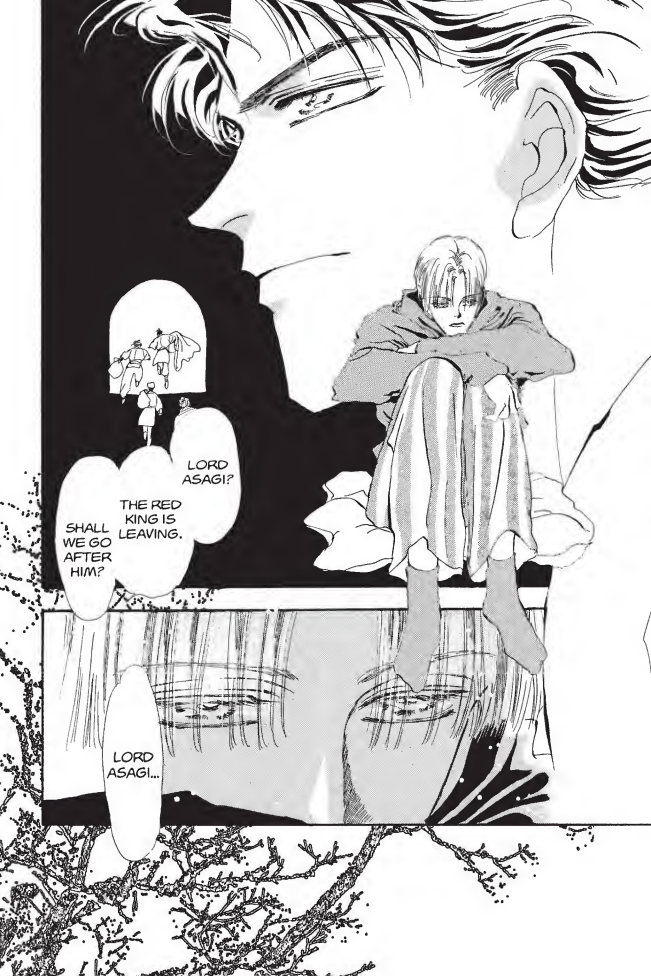
WAIT.

GOOD-
BYE!

AND
THANK
YOU!

FUGU...





LORD
ASAGI?

SHALL
WE GO
AFTER
HIM?

THE RED
KING IS
LEAVING.

LORD
ASAGI...

DOC-
TOR...

IS
HE?

HO,
HO

HE
NEVER
TIRES
OF IT
EVERY
DAY.

MY
LADY?

COUNCILOR
HAGIWARA
IS HERE.

AGAIN.



I
ADMIT...

...THIS
SIGHT
MAKES
ME
GREEN
WITH
ENVY.

HMPH

WHY,
THANK
YOU.

I'M HERE TO MAKE
SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

I GREW THESE
ORCHIDS MYSELF.

I HEARD A
THUG
ACCOSTED
YOUR
CARRIAGE.

SCOLDED THE
VAROGUMI.

IT WAS
NOTHING.

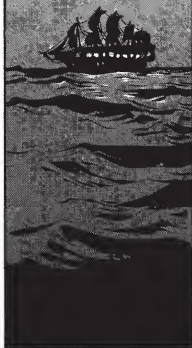


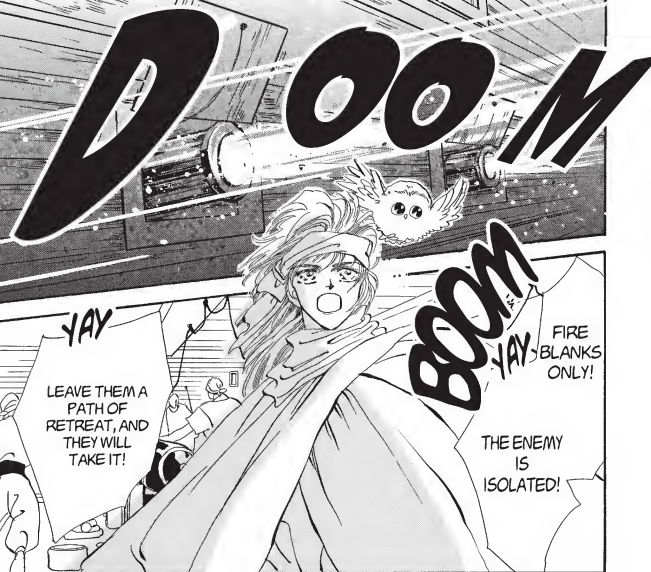






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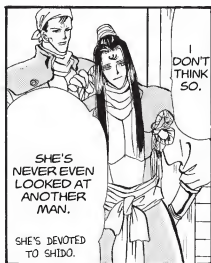


BUT WE CAN JUDGE RIGHT FROM WRONG.

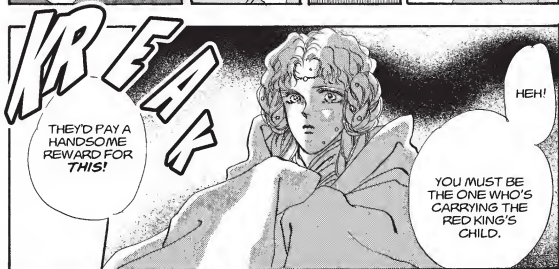
WE'RE MERE FARMHANDS.

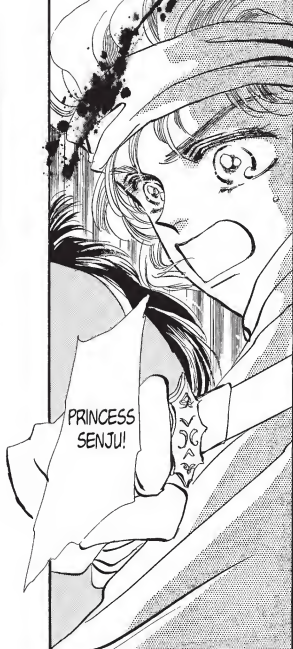
WE GROW OLIVES FOR A LIVING.





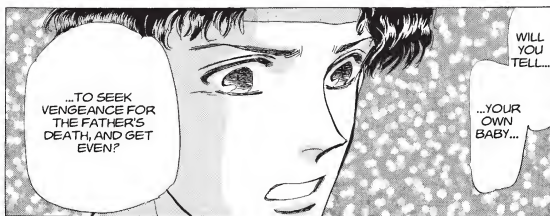














WHENEVER I SEE
THE OLIVE
TREES HE
PLANTED HERE
AND THERE...

LORD
SHIDO
WAS A
MILITARY
MAN...

...BUT HE
CARED
DEEPLY
ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY.

...I CAN'T
HELP BUT
FEEL...

...THE
MESSAGE
HE LEFT.

TMP

WE
PROMISE
TO
PROTECT
YOU!

I
WISH YOU
A SAFE
BIRTH!

THEY'RE
COMING!

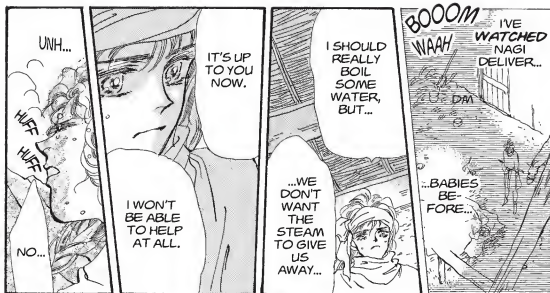
WE HAVE
TO DRAW
THEM
AWAY!

TATARA, GOOD
LUCK!

OLIVE...!?

OLIVES
ARE THE
SYMBOL
OF...

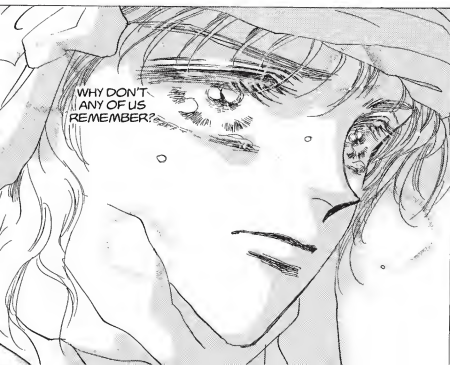
HURRY!





WHY IS IT SO
PAINFUL...

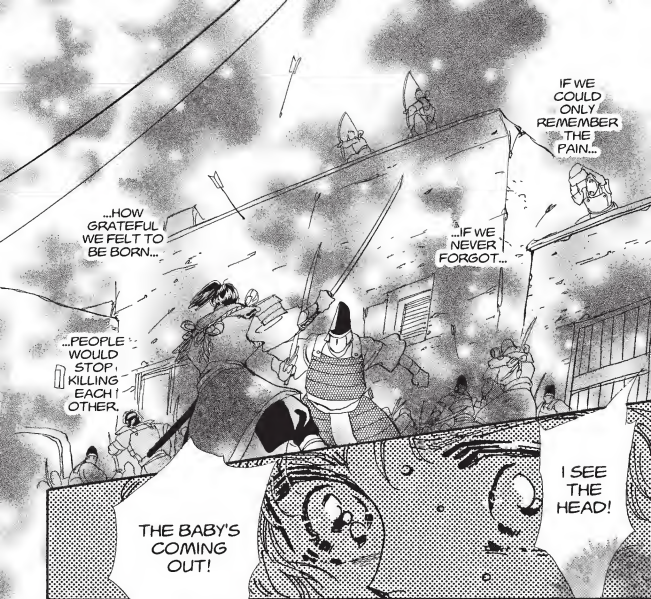
...TO GIVE BIRTH
TO ANOTHER
LIFE?



WHY DON'T
ANY OF US
REMEMBER?

DOES IT
HURT FOR
THE BABY,
TOO?





IF WE
COULD
ONLY
REMEMBER
THE
PAIN...

...HOW
GRATEFUL
WE FELT TO
BE BORN...

...IF WE
NEVER
FORGOT...

...PEOPLE
WOULD
STOP
KILLING
EACH
OTHER.

THE BABY'S
COMING
OUT!

I SEE
THE
HEAD!



WHAT?

DON'T...!

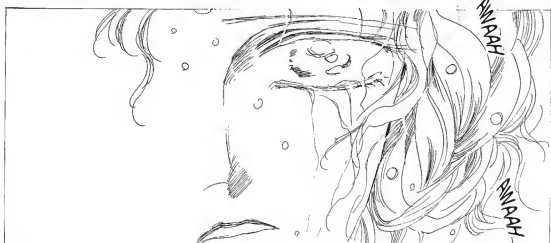
KEEP
AWAY...

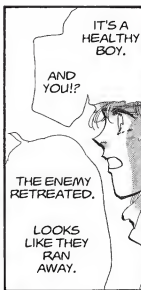
52



AWAAH

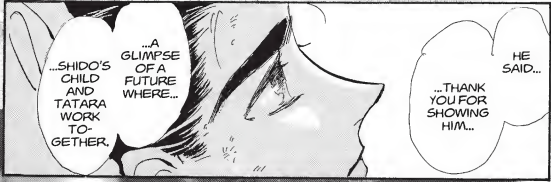
...A...







...THE OLIVE
IS THE
SYMBOL OF
PEACE.



...SHIDO'S
CHILD
AND
TATARA
WORK
TO-
GETHER.

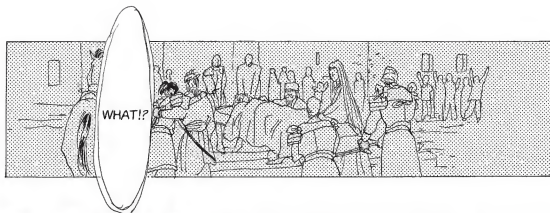
...A
GLIMPSE
OF A
FUTURE
WHERE...

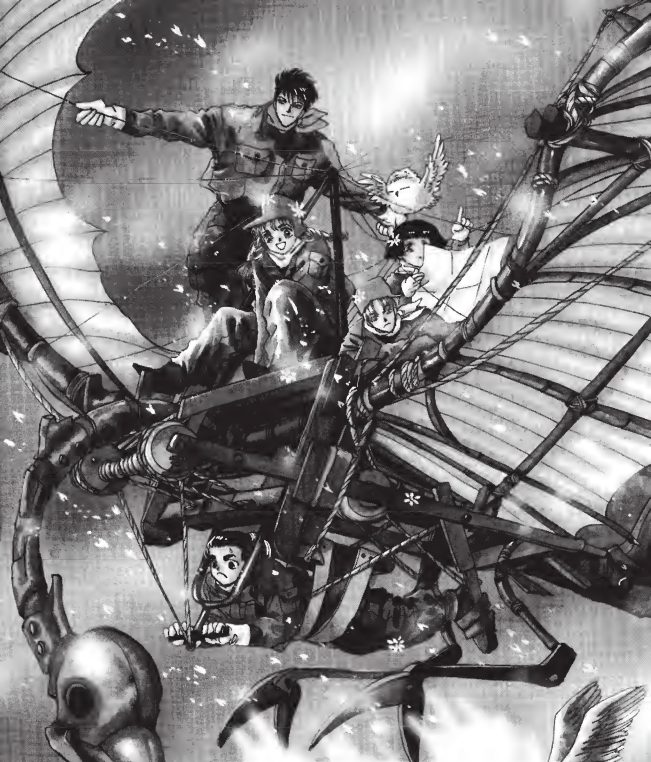
...THANK
YOU FOR
SHOWING
HIM...

HE
SAID...

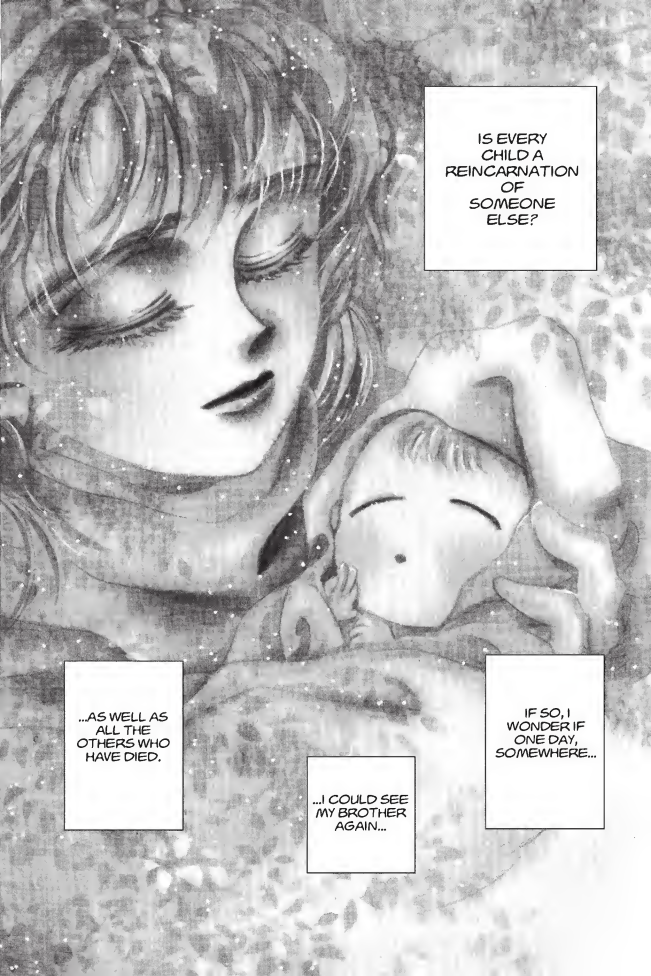


HE WAS GLAD
HE COULD
SEE IT
BEFORE HE
DIED...





GOLD TALE 6: FOOTFALLS



IS EVERY
CHILD A
REINCARNATION
OF
SOMEONE
ELSE?

...AS WELL AS
ALL THE
OTHERS WHO
HAVE DIED.

...I COULD SEE
MY BROTHER
AGAIN...

IF SO, I
WONDER IF
ONE DAY,
SOMEWHERE...



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

I got a lot of boos for Ageha's haircut. ☹

(Though not as much as the time Shuri shaved his head.)
Some people say he looks cooler, but...

Urg. ☹

Is it that bad? ☹



I've been waiting to cut his hair ever since the series started.

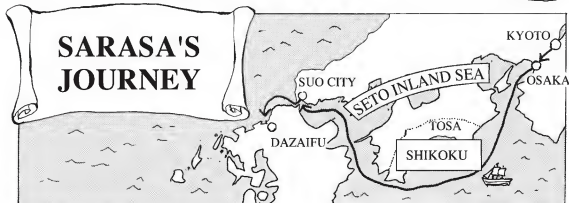
DON'T I LOOK GOOD? (Where did he find a barber!?)

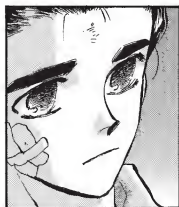
It wasn't because a certain musician cut his hair around the same time.

I didn't decide to cut his hair.
Ageha did!

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY







HE WAS ABOUT TO KILL TATARA.

I WAS THE ONE WHO SHOT THE ARROW...

...THAT KILLED SHIDO.



BUT I ALSO FEEL HAPPY...

...THAT HIS BABY WAS BORN.



SHIDO TRICKED ME...

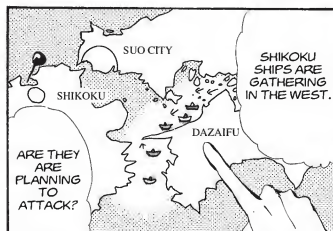
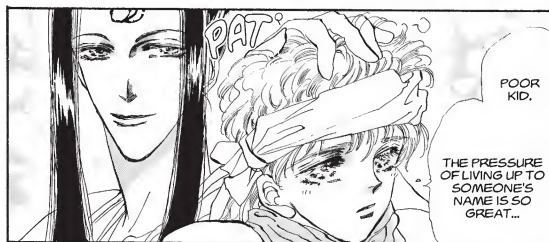
...SO I COULDN'T BE WITH MY MA WHEN SHE DIED.



BUT I WON'T APOLOGIZE.



I WONDER WHY...?





LET'S GET
BACK TO
SUO,
QUICKLY.

THE BEST
MOVE WOULD
BE TO JOIN
HANDS WITH
SHIKOKU.



"YOU GUYS ARE
CLOSE BY, SO
GET RID OF
LIKE TATARA!"
THAT?

KING UKON
PRESSURED
THEM, I
GUESS.

TING TING
TMP
HUP! HUP! TMP

THEY'VE
BEEN
QUIET, SO
WHY NOW?

I HATE
CRUTCHES.

YEAH,
PROBABLY.



NO.

PLEASE
GO
AHEAD.

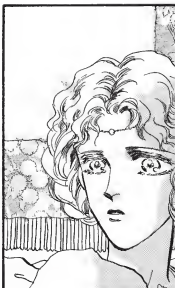
...PLEASE
PREPARE
TO
DISEMBARK.

IF YOU'RE
GOING
BACK TO
YOUR
PARENTS
...
WE'RE
SETTING
SAIL.

WE'RE
SETTING
SAIL.

PRIN-
CESS?







I
DONT
THINK
SO!



WOULD
THEY BE
WILLING
TO
LISTEN?



SHIKO-
KU'S
SETO
NAVY...

...DOESN'T
HAVE BIG
SHIPS OR
CANNONS.

BUT THEIR
SKIFFS
ARE
VERSA-
TILE...

...AND
SWIFT.



ANOTHER
FLEET
FROM
THE
SOUTH!

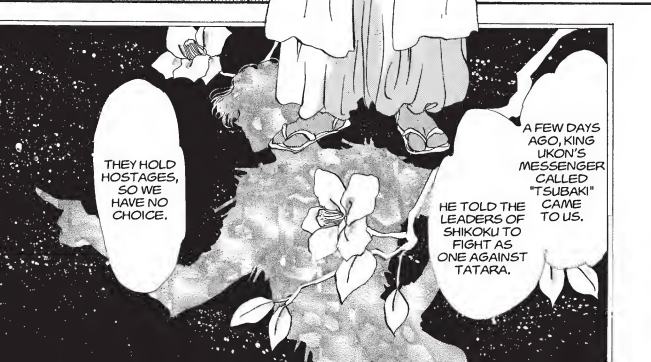
THAT
FLAG
IS...

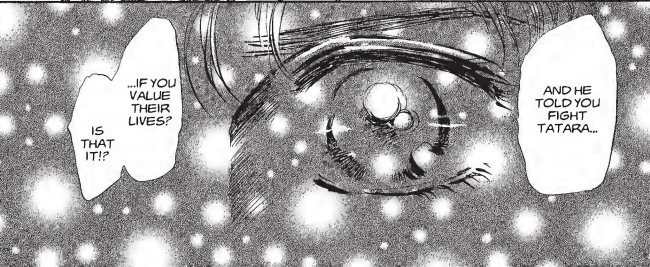


PROTECT
THE
FLAGSHIP!

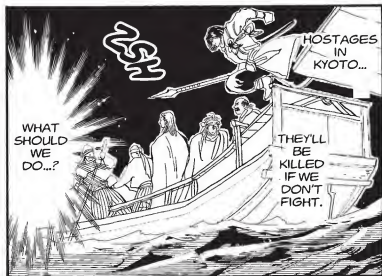
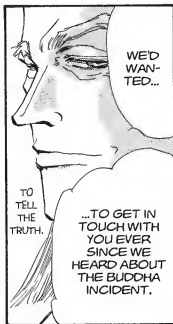
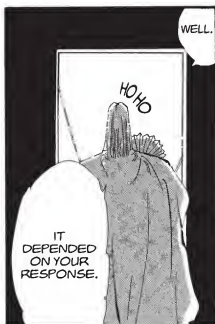
PREPARE
THE
CANNON!

WE'LL
LAUNCH
OUR
DINGHIES!











I'LL SAVE THE
HOSTAGES!



HA
HA

SO WHY
ARE WE
IN A BAR?

YADDA
YADDA

SO THAT'S
WHAT YOU
REMEMBERED.

BRZ
BRZ

I MADE A
PROMISE
TO THE
PEOPLE OF
SHIKOKU...

HA
HA

I USED TO
COME HERE
WHEN I WAS A
KID.

...AND I'D
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT IT.



EVERY-
ONE!
LISTEN
UP!

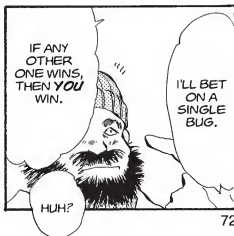
GAH

AND
YOU
WERE
HOW
OLD?



PEOPLE
COME HERE
TO TALK





HUH?







IN ANY CASE...

...I
SWEAR
I'VE
SEEN
YOU BE-
FORE.
YOU SOT.



IT'S ALL
IN YOUR
MIND.



YOU
CUT
OFF...

...THE AN-
TENNAE
OF THE
OTHER
BUGS.



WHAT IF HE
FOUND OUT
AND YOU GOT
INTO A FIGHT?

YOU
TAKE
TOO
MUCH
RISK.

YOU'RE SUCH
A LIAR!

LIARS TURN
INTO THIEVES,
YOU KNOW!

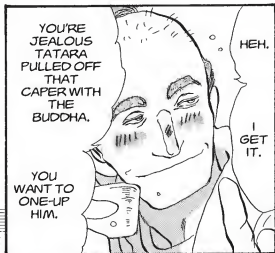
FEH.

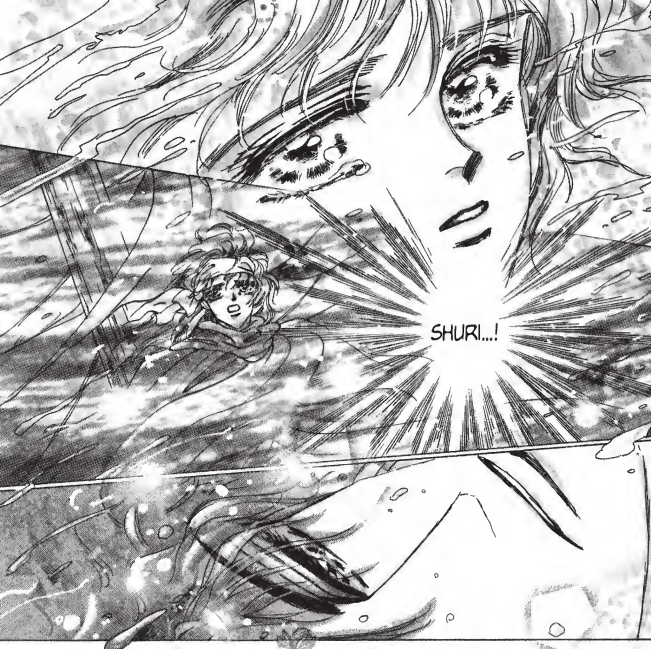
OH, SO
THAT
WAS
THE
TRICK?



WE'D MAKE
HIM DO US A
FAVOR.

WHAT
ELSE?





SHURI...!







WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE!?

WAAH!

EW

THEY'RE
EVERY-
WHERE!

SO
MANY
OF
THEM!



WHAT!?

ROACHES!



SHUXX!

GACK!



EEK

WH-WHO
ARE YOU?



WAAH

GACK

EEK

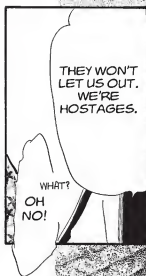
TMD
EEK



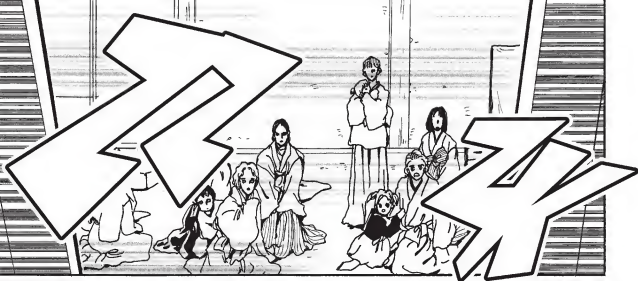
EXCUSE US.



WE'RE
HERE TO
EXTERMIN-
ATE THE
PESTS.











ONLY IDIOTS STAY
FOREVER AS
HELPLESS VICTIMS!



STOP
ALLOWING
YOURSELVES
TO BE
VICTIMIZED!

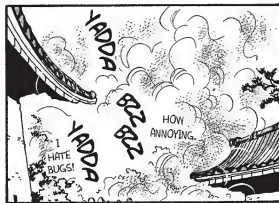
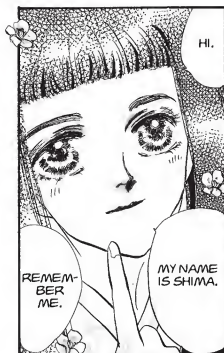
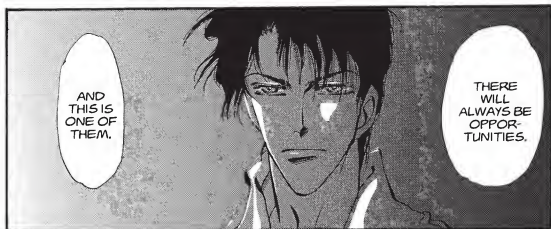
DON'T GET
USED TO
BEING
OPPRESSED!



FIGHT
FOR
YOUR
RIGHT TO
LIVE!

SPEAK UP
FOR YOUR-
SELVES!

DON'T SIT
AROUND
AND DO
NOTHING!



VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME ②

Why does Ichimatsu have a lot of scars on his face?
(He has a lot on his body, too.)

MY FACE WAS TOO
PRETTY, SO I
SCARRED MYSELF
UP TO LOOK MORE
INDIMIDATING.

SWAK



They get along well for some
reason.

↓



MAYBE.



YOU'RE
JUST
SLOW.

TAMU

THEY
SHOULD'VE
GOTTEN
APPROVAL
FIRST.



VICE
CAPTAIN!

IT'S
NOT A
FIRE.

YADDA
YADDA

BZZ
BZZ

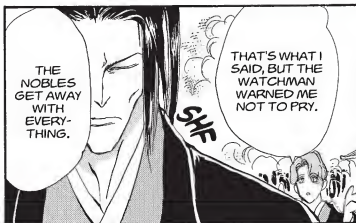
THEY SAY
THEY'RE
SMOKING
OUT BUGS.



THE
NOBLES
GET AWAY
WITH
EVERY-
THING.

THAT'S WHAT I
SAID, BUT THE
WATCHMAN
WARNED ME
NOT TO PRY.

SHE



SUCH
PRACTICES...

...WILL
ONE DAY
PROVE
FATAL
FOR
KYOTO...







TP

YOU GO
ON
AHEAD!



SAKAI
HARBOR...

GO
HOME
SAFELY.

CATCH
ME!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

WE'LL
FOREVER
BE IN
YOUR
DEBT!



SETO INLAND SEA

BOOM

THEY'RE
TRYING TO
BOARD US!
NOW WHAT?

WHAT ARE
WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO!?

PRETEND
TO FIGHT?

HOW?

SHOULD I SHAKE MY BUTT AT 'EM?

...THAT
OUR
FAMILIES
ARE BEING
HELD
HOSTAGE.

THEY
MUST
KNOW
...

TOKUSHIMA COMMANDER:
ANAN

TAKAMATSU COMMANDER:
MARUGAME

WHY AREN'T
THEY
FIGHTING
FOR
REAL!?

...IS
FIRING
BLANKS.

TATARA'S
SHIP...

MATSUYAMA COMMANDER:
FUTAMI



...THEY
KNOW
WE'RE
FACED...

...WITH A
PAINFUL
CHOICE.

WHETHER
WE
FIGHT...

...OR
NOT...

TATARA...!



LORD
TENMA
OF
TOSA...

...AND
TATARA
HIMSELF.



AN ENVOY
REQUESTS
A PRIVATE
MEETING.

PSST
PSST

WHO!?



SIRS!

TP
TP



LORD
TSUBAKI!

WHEN
DID YOU
GET
HERE...?

HEH.

GOOD
IDEA.

LET'S TALK
TO
TATARA
AND...

GREAT.

THANK
GOD.

PSST PSST

...FIND A
SOLUTION.

I'M NOT
JUST ANY
MESSENGER
OF THE
KING...

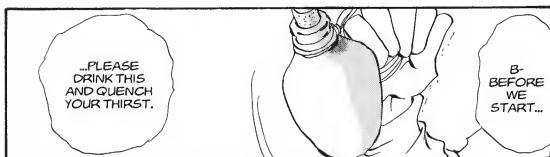
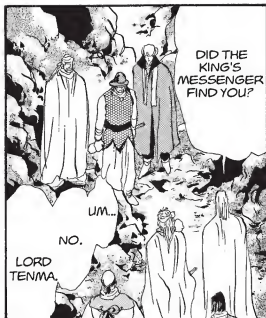
...I
ASSURE
YOU.

DO IT IF
YOU WANT
THE
HOSTAGES
TO LIVE.

PUT
SOME
POISON
IN A
DRINK.

PRETEND
TO FORM
AN
ALLIANCE
WITH
TATARA...

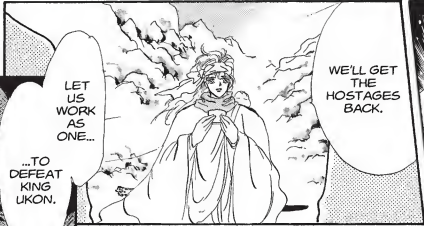
...AND
KILL
HIM.





I WILL
TRUST
YOU.

I
COME AS A
MESSENGER
OF PEACE.



LET
US
WORK
AS ONE...



...TO
DEFEAT
KING
UKON.

WE'LL GET
THE
HOSTAGES
BACK.



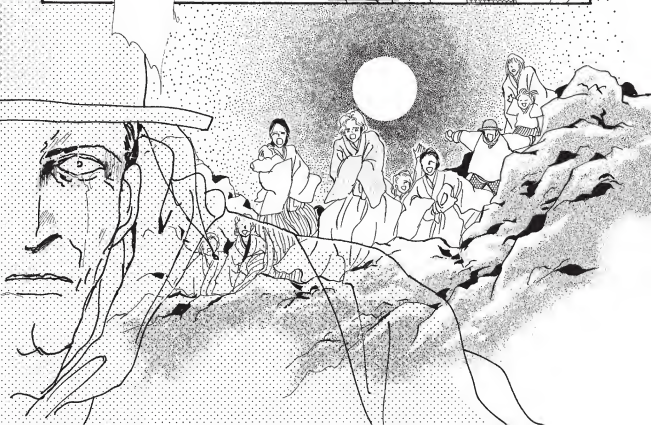
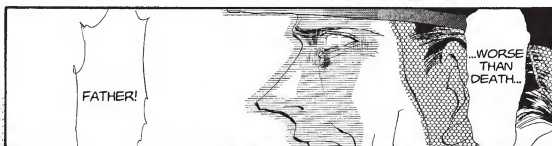
SKA



DON'T!



TATARA!





MY
DEARS!

OH MY
GOD!

DAD!

WHAT?

THE
GIRLS!

FATHER!

HOORAY!
YAY!

WHY ARE
THE
HOSTAGES
FREE!?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON!?

YOU...

BUT
YOU
ARE...

YOU MUST
BE
HIIRAGI'S
FIRST
SPRIG --
"CAMEL-
LIA."

YOU'RE
HERE ON
HIIRAGI'S
ORDERS,
RIGHT?

WHAT!?

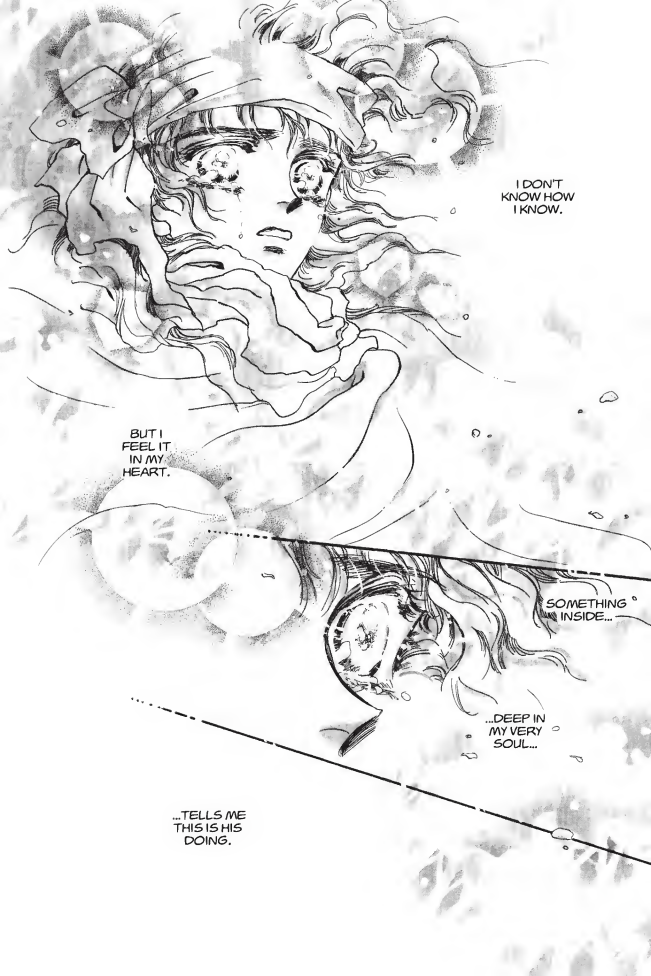
TSUBAKI?



I CAN'T GO
BACK
EMPTY-
HANDED.

A LITTLE
SOMETHING
FOR
TATARA.





I DON'T
KNOW HOW
I KNOW.

BUT I
FEEL IT
IN MY
HEART.

SOMETHING
INSIDE...

...DEEP IN
MY VERY
SOUL...

...TELLS ME
THIS IS HIS
DOING.



I SENSE SHURI'S
PRESENCE AS IF
HE WERE BESIDE
ME.



NOPE.

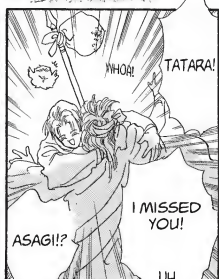
I
FOR-
GOT.

OH YEAH, YOU
WEREN'T HERE...



WERE
YOU...

...WORRIED
ABOUT
ME?



WHOA!

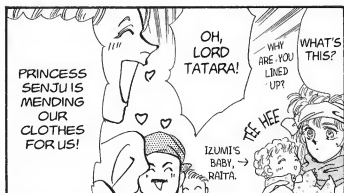
TATARA!

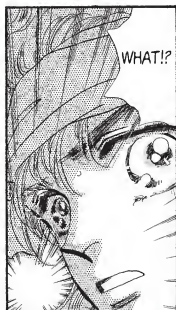
ASAGI!?

I MISSED
YOU!

UH-







WHAT!?



YOUR IGNORANCE
IS ASTOUNDING.

YOU
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS?

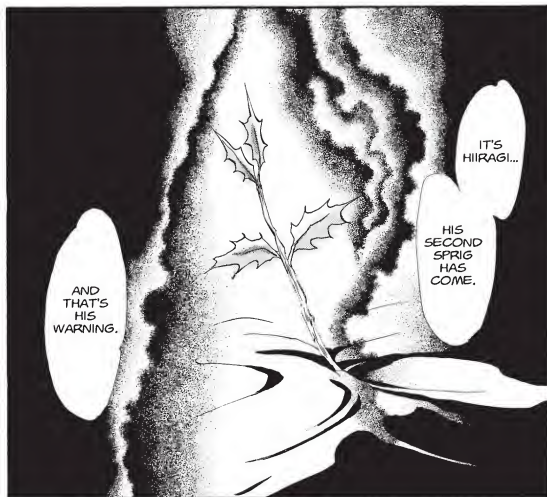
THAT...

...IS
HOLLY.



HUH?

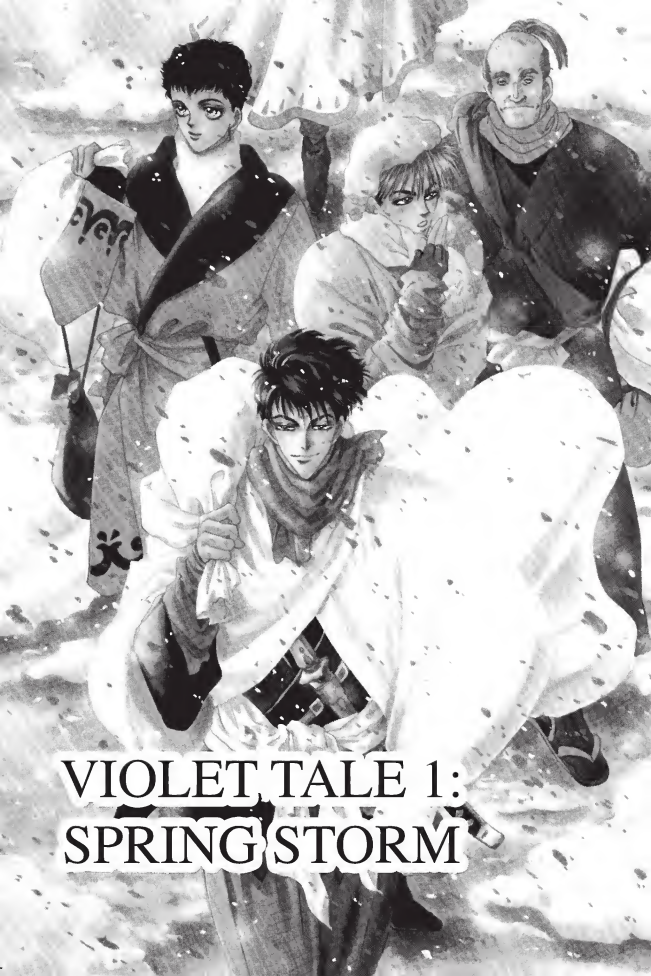
THERE'S
A
BRANCH
ON MY
BED...



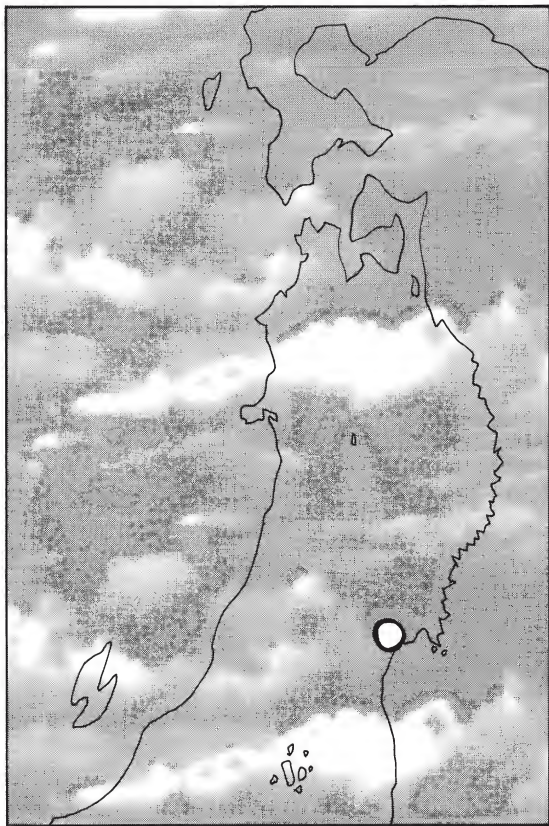
AND
THAT'S
HIS
WARNING.

IT'S
HIIRAGI...

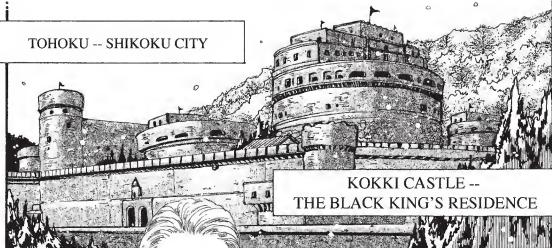
HIS
SECOND
SPRIG
HAS
COME.



VIOLET TALE 1: SPRING STORM



TOHOKU -- SHIKOKU CITY



KOKKI CASTLE --
THE BLACK KING'S RESIDENCE

IF I
CANNOT
SEE HIM,
I'LL GO
HOME.

LET ME
THROUGH!

I CAME
BECAUSE THE
BLACK KING
SUMMONED
ME.

THE BLACK KING'S RIGHTFUL WIFE --
LADY PURPLE



HOW
MANY
DAYS
DO I
HAVE TO
WAIT!?

PLEASE
WAIT IN
THIS
DRAWING
ROOM.



MY LADY,
PLEASE.

HIS
HIGHNESS IS
VERY BUSY.



THE BLACK KING'S CONCUBINE --
LADY MOGAMI



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

A couple volumes ago, I wrote in this space wondering whether the chili tomato flavored instant noodles had been discontinued.

A bunch of people sent me some to let me know it still exists.

I was delighted.

Thank you so much! ♡ ≡

I ate them all.

I can't hold chopsticks right...



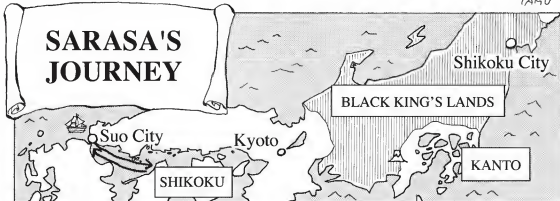
I managed to find them myself recently at a convenience store, so I'm relieved. ♡ ≡ I love their seafood flavor, too.

Do they still make wasabi-flavored shrimp chips?

I really liked them, too.

No, I'm not asking you to send me some. ♡

SARASA'S JOURNEY





IF...

...WE MAKE IT
SEEM AS IF A
KAZUNO SPY
KILLED LADY
PURPLE...

THAT OLD
HAG IS SO
POPULAR
AMONG THE
PEOPLE.

IT GIVES
ME
GOOSE-
BUMPS
JUST
THINKING
ABOUT
IT.

...THEIR
MORALE
WILL
SURELY BE
BOOSTED.

BE
CARE-
FUL
WHAT
YOU
SAY...

KO-KO

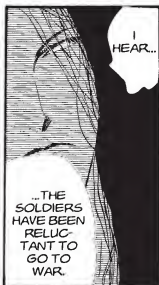
EXCUSE
ME.

ARE YOU
SICK,
KAZUMA?
YOU SILLY
MAN.



I
HEAR...

...THE
SOLDIERS
HAVE BEEN
RELUC-
TANT TO
GO TO
WAR.



WHY
DON'T
YOU SEE
A
DOCTOR?

SHALL I
CALL A
DOCTOR
OR A
FORTUNE-
TELLER?

A
FORTUNE-
TELLER?
NONE ARE
GOOD
ENOUGH.

ACHOO!
EXCUSE
ME.



I
HAVE
NIGHT-
MARES.

I SEE
ILL
OMENS.



THE
THOUGHT
OF HER
KEEPS ME
UP AT
NIGHT.

NOT
GOOD.

HOW
DO
YOU
FEEL?





YOU'LL HAVE
WONDERFUL
LUCK THIS
YEAR.

I HEAR
THERE'S A
POPULAR
FORTUNETELLER
IN TOWN.

ARE
YOU
SURE?

I'M
SORRY.
PLEASE
COME
AGAIN
TOMOR-
ROW.

THAT'S
ALL
FOR
TODAY.

OOH

AHH! I FEEL
SO MUCH
BETTER
NOW!

THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!

KRYK

I'M NOT
GOING
TO DIE
IN THE
WAR, AM
I?

NO,
YOU'LL
BE FINE!
♥

KRYK





MY NAME
IS MITSU-
NARI
KAZUMA
OF KAI.

THE BLACK
KING'S
CONCUBINE,
LADY
MOGAMI,
SUMMONS
YOU.

LADY
MOGAMI
WOULD LIKE
TO MEET
YOU.

SHE'S VERY
FOND OF
DIVINATION.



BE AT
EASE.

I'M
NOT
WORTHY.

BUT...

WHAT?



ALL YOU
HAVE TO
DO IS
TELL HER
GOOD
THINGS.

DON'T SAY
ANYTHING
NEGATIVE.







LOOK,
THEY'RE
LEADING
THE
SLAVES
AWAY.



I
NEVER
DOES
ANY
GOOD.

I'VE
HAD
ENOUGH
WAR!

I
HEAR
THERE'S
GOING
TO
BE
AN
EPIC
BATTLE.

THOSE
SLAVES
WILL
FIGHT
IN
THE
WAR
UNTIL
THEY
DIE.



I
DON'T
WANT
TO
SEND
MY
SON
TO
WAR...

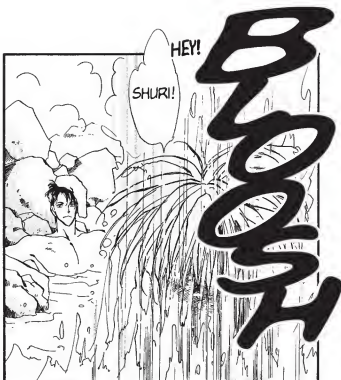
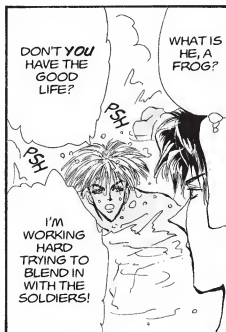
THE
BLACK
KING
COULD
BE
DOOMED
AS
WELL.

I
ADMIT
THE
BUDDHA
INCIDENT
FELT
GOOD.

I
HEAR
HE'S
EVEN
EMBARRASSED
KING
UKON.

KAZUNO
HAS
TATARA
ON
THEIR
SIDE.









...I NEVER
IMAGINED I'D
BE HELPING
THE RED KING.

IT'S ALL TO
SAVE LADY
PURPLE,
BUT...

YOU NEVER KNOW.



THAT
FACE...

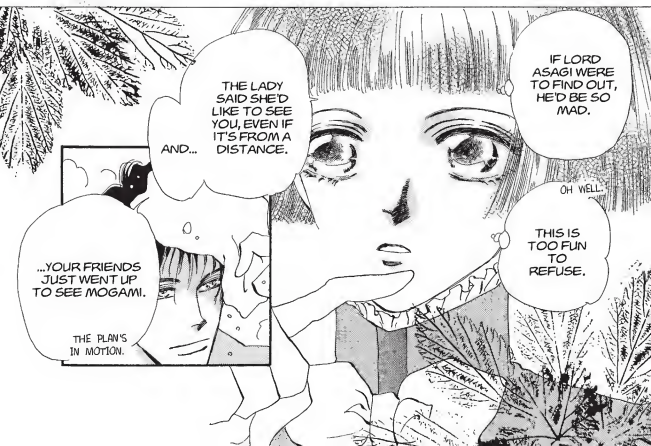
THE
RED
KING!?

YOU WERE
THERE!?



YOU
WERE...

...WITH
TATARA
IN
KYOTO!



THE LADY
SAID SHE'D
LIKE TO SEE
YOU, EVEN IF
IT'S FROM A
DISTANCE.
AND...

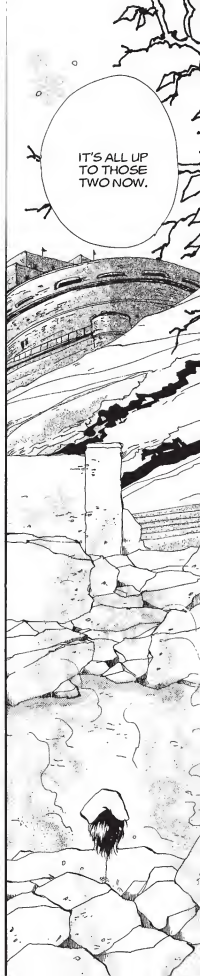
IF LORD
ASAGI WERE
TO FIND OUT,
HE'D BE SO
MAD.

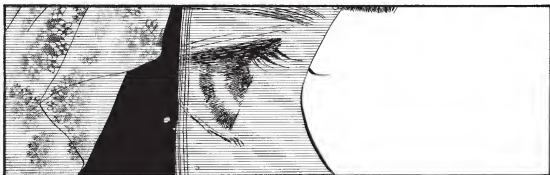
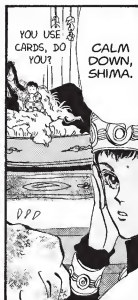
OH WELL...

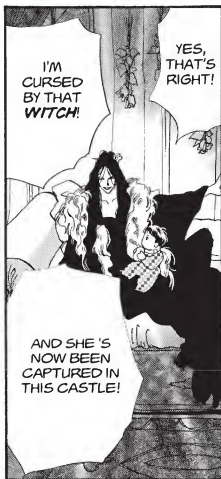
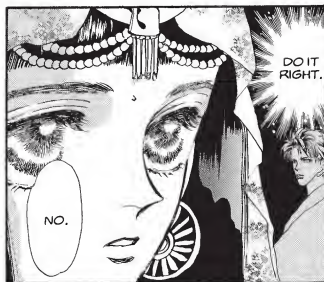
THIS IS
TOO FUN
TO
REFUSE.

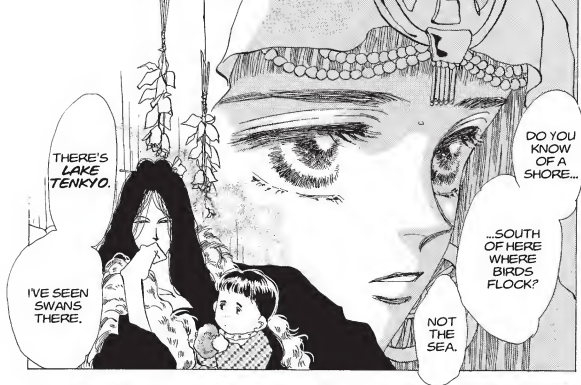
...YOUR FRIENDS
JUST WENT UP
TO SEE MOGAMI.

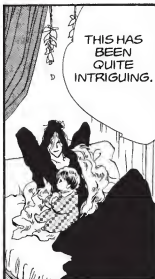
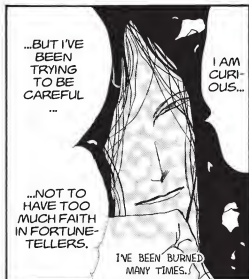
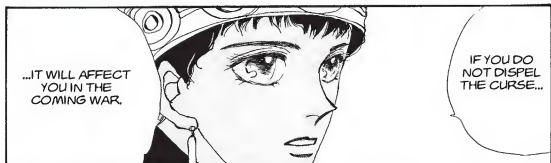
THE PLAN'S
IN MOTION.

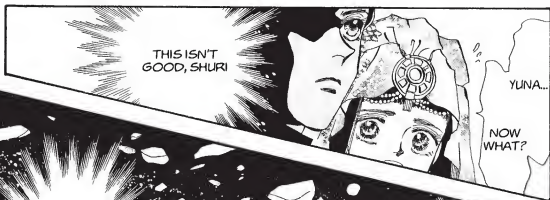
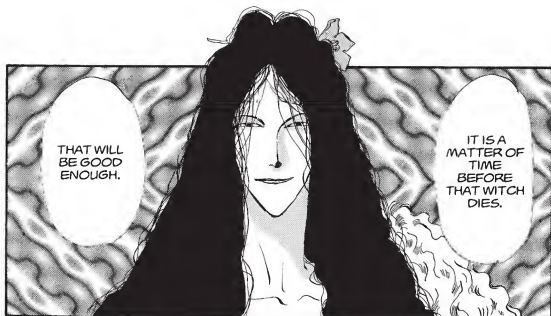


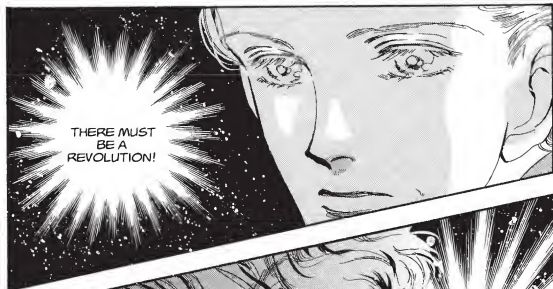














THE WAY I
WAS
BEFORE...

I HAD THOUGHT IT WAS
THE RIGHT THING TO
ATTACK AND SIMPLY TAKE
FOR MYSELF.

...I WOULD'VE
DISPATCHED ANYONE
WHO GOT IN MY WAY.



...KILLING IS
NO LONGER
THE
SOLUTION.

BUT
NOW I
KNOW...



I WILL
MAKE IT
HAPPEN!

AND
I'M
THE
ONLY
ONE...

...IN MY
FAMILY
WHO SEES
THIS.



TO
WHOM?

HUH?



ODD. I DON'T
SEE HOW
THIS COULD
BE SO.

HIS
EYES...

...LOOK SO
SIMILAR.



WE
SHOULD
GET BACK
SOON.

I'VE SEEN
HIM
BEFORE
WHEN HE
WAS
LITTLE.

HE'S
GROWN
TO BE A
FINE
MAN...



TO
TATARA...



DO YOU
FIND IT
HARD TO
BREATHE
SOME-
TIMES?

KAZUMA,
WAIT.



YOU
LOOK
PALE.

EXCUSE
ME.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING!?

HEY!



MAY
I...

...CHECK
YOUR
PULSE?



WELL, THERE ARE MANY WHO COMPLEMENT MEDICINE WITH DIVINING.

H.M.



...HAVE MEDICAL SKILLS?

I'M AN APPRENTICE. IT'S THE TRUTH.



IT'S NOT SO BAD.

MY HEAD-ACHES ARE WORSE.

DO YOU...



SHIMA, YOU HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING!

THE HEADACHES ARE DUE TO THE STIFFNESS IN YOUR NECK.



HMM. THAT SPELL WORKS WONDERS.

I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.



INA-GUYA

IKU-SANU

SACHI-BAI...

THINK!



I'M
GETTING
A LITTLE
DROWSY.

AMAZING.



SHURI
WILL
HATE
ME!

I WANT TO
PROVE TO
HIM THAT I'M
USEFUL!



WERE YOU
BORN IN
SHIKOKU?

HUH?

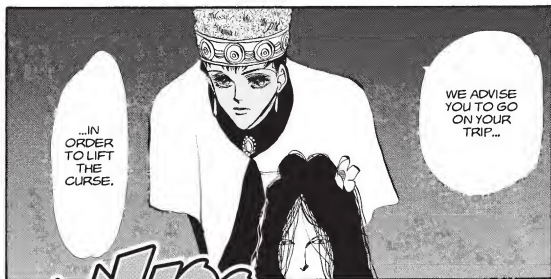
LADY
MOGAMI...



IN
MATSUYAMA,
IN FACT.



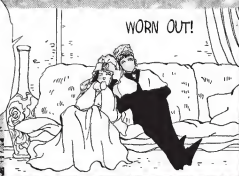
NOT EVEN MY HUSBAND KNOWS WHERE I'M FROM.



WHO

WILL SHURI BE PROUD OF ME?

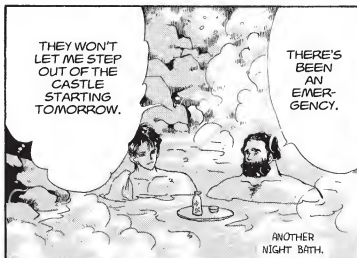
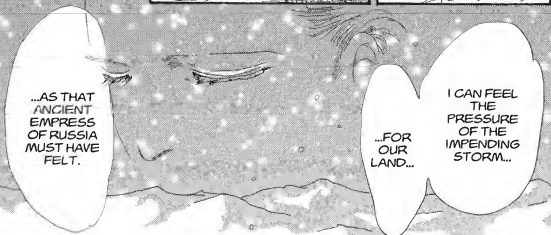
GREAT JOB, SHIMA.



PHEW!

THANK GOODNESS...







I
KNOW.



YOU
SURE DO
LOOK
LIKE HIM.

HOW'D
YOU
KNOW!?

HE'S MORE
BUFF THOUGH.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE THE
BLACK
KING'S
DOUBLE.



I HAVE A
WIFE AND
KIDS.

I HAVE TO STAY
AT THE
CASTLE WHILE
THE BLACK
KING'S GONE.

AND I
MUST BE
AVAILABLE
ALL THE
TIME.

THEY WON'T
EVEN LET
ME GO SEE
THEM.



THEY
TOLD ME
I LOOK
LIKE HIM...

HMPH...

...AND TOOK
ME AWAY
FROM MY
HOME IN THE
COUNTRY.



HUH?



I'LL
HELP
YOU.



WELL,
YEAH!

DO YOU
WANT TO
GO
HOME?

SIGH

SURE
I
DO!



...THE
REAL
BLACK
KING.

FOR
ONE
DAY...

...I'LL
MAKE
YOU...



PSH

TOO
HOT!

I
STAYED
IN
THERE
TOO
LONG.

PSH

SHURI...



PSH

PSH

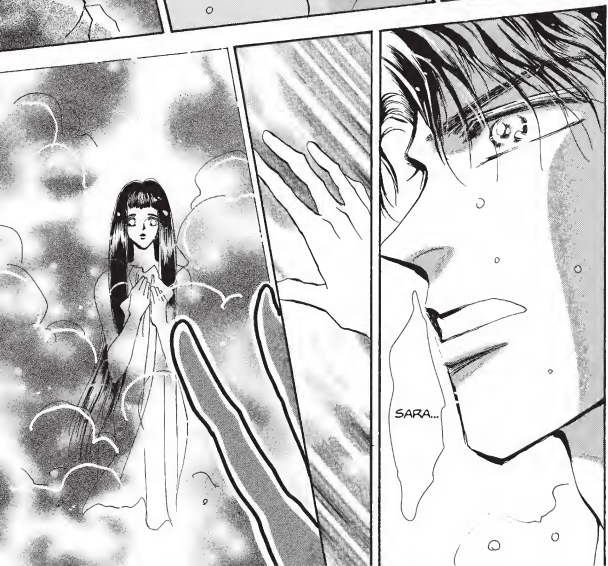


PSH

PSH

PSH

TOMOR-
ROW.







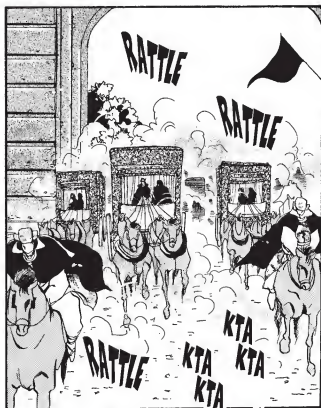
IT'S NOT
YOU I WANT.



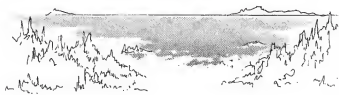
THEN
WHO?

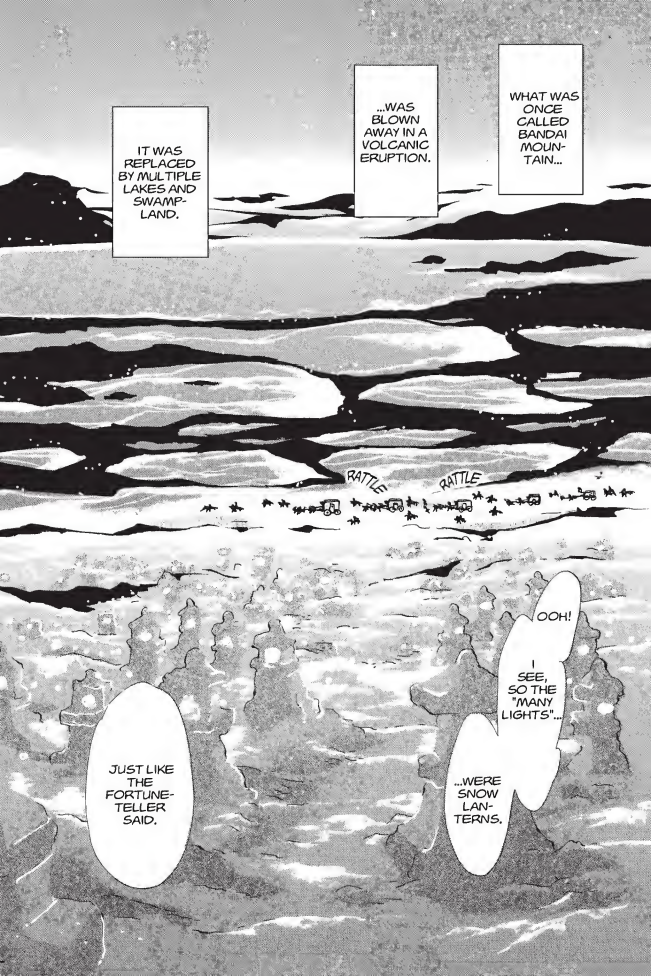
IT'S
NOT
HER I
WANT...





LAKE TENKYO...





IT WAS
REPLACED
BY MULTIPLE
LAKES AND
SWAMP-
LAND.

...WAS
BLOWN
AWAY IN A
VOLCANIC
ERUPTION.

WHAT WAS
ONCE
CALLED
BANDAI
MOUNTAIN...

RATTLE

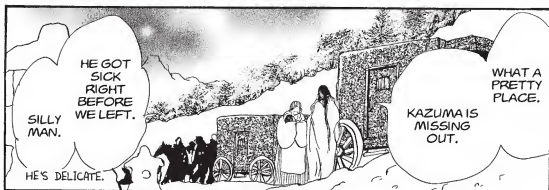
RATTLE

JUST LIKE
THE
FORTUNE-
TELLER
SAID.

OOH!

I
SEE,
SO THE
"MANY
LIGHTS"...

...WERE
SNOW
LAN-
TURNS.



VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ③

SARASA, MEANWHILE...
Part ①



I'M SO BUSY!

I HAVE TO DEFEND SHIKOKU!
I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE
ASSASSINS!



WHERE'VE
YOU
BEEN?

ASAGI,
I MISSED
YOU!

Shinobashi is
making babies
with his girlfriend.



SOME-
THING
STRANGE
IS GOING
ON.

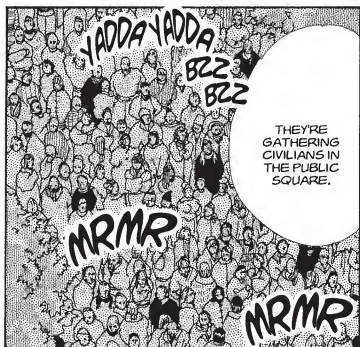
THE
CASTLE IS
SURROUND-
ED BY LORD
ICHIMATSU'S
TROOPS!



WAKE UP,
LORD
KAZUMA!

UGH...

MY
HEAD
HURTS...



YADDA YADDA
BZZ
BZZ

THEY'RE
GATHERING
CIVILIANS IN
THE PUBLIC
SQUARE.

MRMR

MRMR



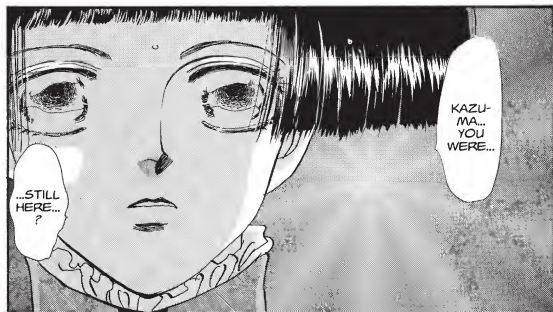
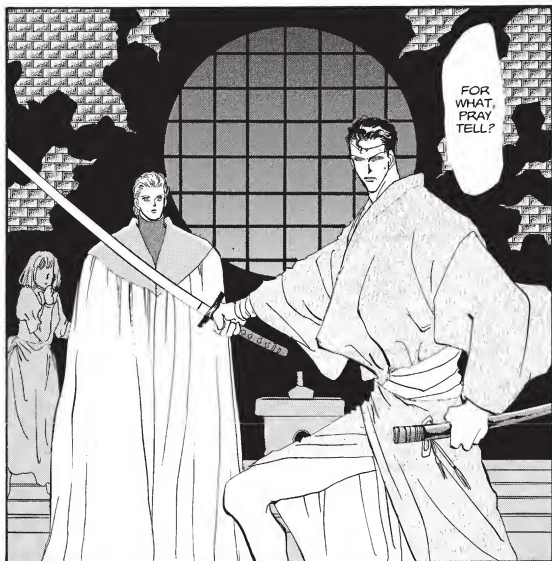
THE
BLACK
KING.

UGH.

ON
WHOSE
ORDER?

WHA...?





**VIOLET TALE 2:
THE DAY WAS
BOUND TO COME**



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

I'm looking for a new apartment to move into right now (May '96). It's pretty hard to find a good one.

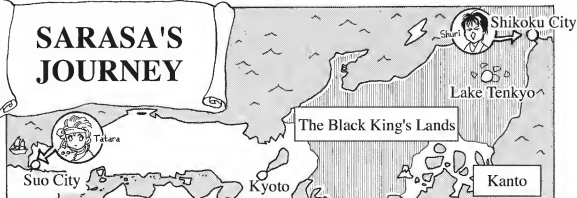


It's fun to see lots of places, but it takes a lot of time. ♪

Where will I be living when vol. 19 comes out? It's also a little exciting.

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY





KAZUMA!

HOW DARE
YOU POINT
YOUR
SWORD
AT
HER!?

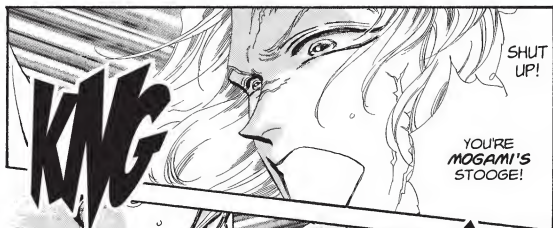
O-ICHI!

ICHIMATSU!

ICHI-
MATSU.

LADY
PURPLE'S
STOOGES!

KLANG



SHUT
UP!

YOU'RE
MOGAMI'S
STOOGES!

...THE
FUTURE
KING!

I PLEDGE
ALLIANCE
TO THE
MOTHER
OF...



THE
BLACK
KING
MAY BE
ABSENT...

...BUT
WE'RE
SOON TO
FACE A
CRUCIAL
BATTLE!

A
COUP,
NOW!?

SHAME
ON YOU,
ICHIMATSU!



.....

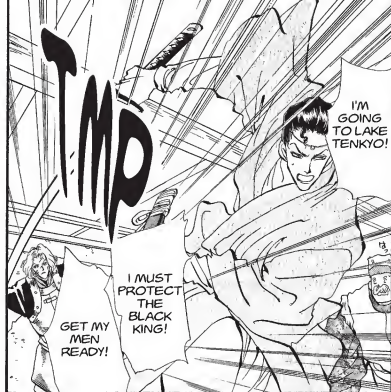


THE ONE
WHO'S
HERE IS
THE
DOUBLE
...

WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAY-
ING?



THE
BLACK
KING IS
STILL
HERE.





SILENCE!

EKK

GASP

WHAT?

WAR!

IS IT WAR?

BZZ

WHAT?

WHAT?

WHAT?

OH NO! RUN!

WHAT?!

A KAZUNO ATTACK!?

WAA

NOTHING HAS HAPPENED!

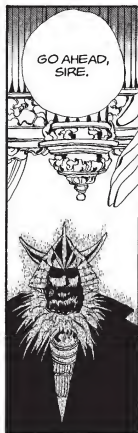
HEAR ME!

MRMR

WHAT?

WHO'S THAT?

WHO?



LAKE TENKYO
BLACK KING'S VILLA --
CRANE PALACE

OOH.

WHAT
GORGEOUS
SNOW
STRUC-
TURES.

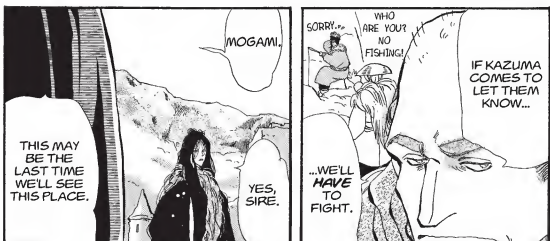
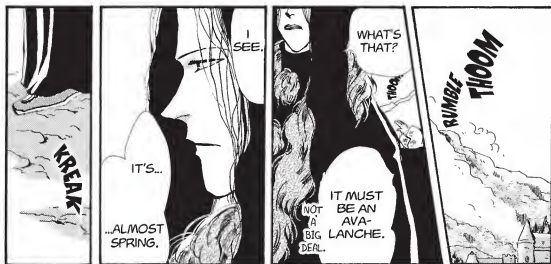
IS THIS
SOME
KIND OF
FESTIVAL?

YOU'RE
VERY
TALENT-
ED.

I'M GLAD I
CAME
HERE.

SO THESE
ARE THE
FRAGILE
BUILDINGS...

...THAT
YOU
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT.





THEN WE
SHALL LIVE
IN KYOTO.

I'LL
BECOME
THE KING
OF THIS
COUNTRY
SOON.



YOU
ARE
HERE...

...SO I MAY
ANNOUNCE
THAT...

...I HEREBY
RESIGN
AS KING.



I'VE SPENT
TOO
MUCH OF
YOUR RE-
SOURCES.



ALL I
DID...

...WAS TRY
TO
CONQUER
KAZUNO.

BATTLE
AFTER
BATTLE...

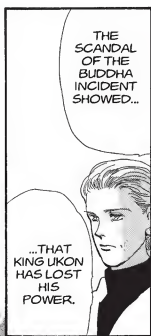
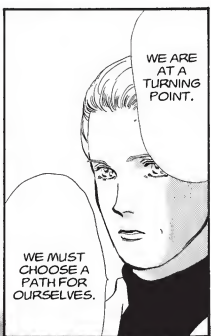


THIS LAND WILL
FOREVER
ABOLISH THE
MONARCHY!

THIS IS
NOT TO
ABDICATE
THE
THRONE
TO MY
SON.

NOBODY
WILL COME
TO TAKE MY
PLACE.

WE WILL DECLARE
INDEPENDENCE
FROM THE KING IN
KYOTO!





LET US
BUILD A
NEW
COUNTRY...

WE CAN
WORK TO-
GETHER
WITH
TATARA...

...ONE OF
PEACE,
WITHOUT
WAR!

...AND
KAZUNO!



...AS AN
ADVISER
FROM
NOW ON.

I WILL
ALSO
RESIGN AS
QUEEN
AND
SERVE...







O-ICHI.



WHY ARE
YOU
DRESSED
ALL IN
WHITE?
IT'S NOT
YOUR
USUAL
STYLE.

WEIRD!

IT LOOKS
LIKE A
SHROUD
FOR THE
DEAD...

.....



I'M OFF
TO LAKE
TEN-
KYO...

...TO GO
AFTER
KAZUMA.



GOING ALONE?

KIYOMASA OF KAGA

KIYO-MASA.

I'LL GO WITH YOU.

I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH MY SOLDIERS.

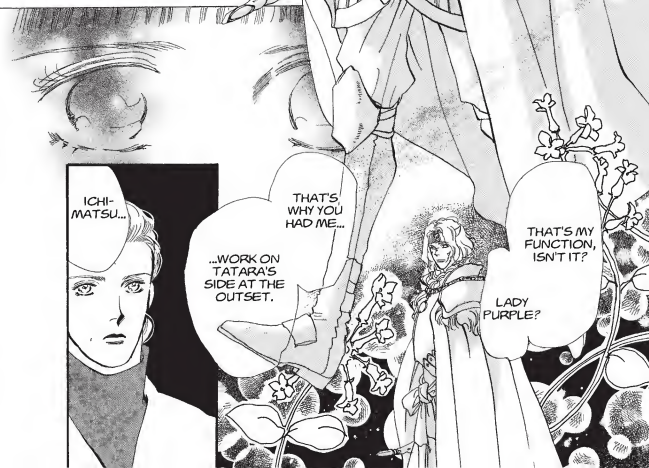
O-ICHI!?



STAY HERE.

I'M GOING TO GO MURDER MY LIEGE.

NO, I HAVE TO GO BY MYSELF.



ICHI-MATSU...

THAT'S WHY YOU HAD ME...

...WORK ON TATARU'S SIDE AT THE OUTSET.

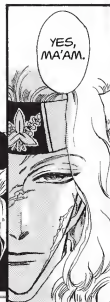
THAT'S MY FUNCTION, ISN'T IT?

LADY PURPLE?

CLAP



YES,
MA'AM.



PLEASE...

...TAKE
CARE
OF
HIM.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO GO
EXPECTING
TO DIE
BEFORE YOU
EVEN DO
ANYTHING!

O-CHI,
WAIT!

TP TP TP

O-CHI!



DON'T
DO
THIS!



HE DID
TAKE
CARE
OF
ME...

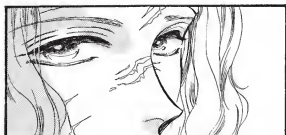
...FOR
MANY
YEARS.



TP TP TP

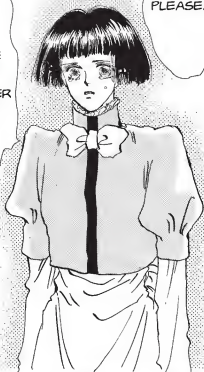
THE
BLACK
KING
ISN'T
WORTH
IT!

DON'T
THROW
YOUR LIFE
AWAY!



THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.

PLEASE.



CHANGED CLOTHES.





HE DOESN'T
NEED HELP
FROM
OUTSIDERS,
HUH?

HE'S
GOOD.



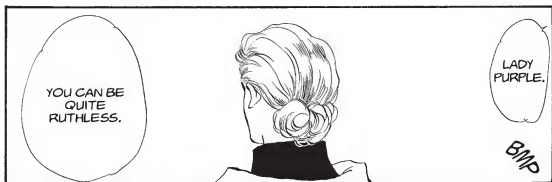
THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
HELP,
SIRE.

ALLOW ME
TO TAKE
CARE OF
THE REST.



THERE
ARE
PLENTY
MORE
THINGS...

...YOU
SHOULD
SEE IN THE
FUTURE,
YOU KNOW.



YOU CAN BE
QUITE
RUTHLESS.

LADY
PURPLE.

BMP



A
BATTLE IS
INEVITABLE.

WE WOULD
HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO KILL THE
BLACK KING.

BUT
YOU
LET
HIM
GO.



IF YOU'D
STOPPED
KAZUMA...

...WE
COULDN'T
ARRESTED
THE BLACK
KING
WITHOUT
MUCH ADO.

...IF YOU
HADN'T
LET HIM
GO...





LAKE TENKYO



IT'S A CONSPIRACY!

ARREST THAT FORTUNE-TELLER!



THE MAIN ROAD IS BURIED!

THERE'S A DETOUR AROUND THE LAKE.

THAT'S THE ONLY PATH.

SHK SHK

LORD KAZUMA!?

WHAT'S THIS?

SHK SHK

SHK SHK



THIS GIRL...

...SHURI LOVES.

I WONDER IF SHE'S CUTER THAN ME?



CHEER UP, SHIMA!

I SAID YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT SHURI.



KAZUMA'S HERE, SO THAT MEANS...

...THEY'VE FOUND OUT.

VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ④

SARASA, MEANWHILE...
Part ②

I'M SORRY, KIKUNE.



I CAN'T GO NORTH
RIGHT NOW.
BE CAREFUL.
WAIT FOR ME.

WOO, SHURI'S
WITH A GIRL?

CAN I
READ? -

Serial comics
"Bakara"

Newspaper supplement

TAMU

FIND A RELATION-
SHIP
WHERE
YOU
HAVE...

...A
LEAD-
ING
ROLE.

I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
THE ONE
FOR ME.

I WAS
SO
SURE
...

...FATE
BROUGHT
US
TOGETHER.

THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY!

THERE
THEY
ARE!

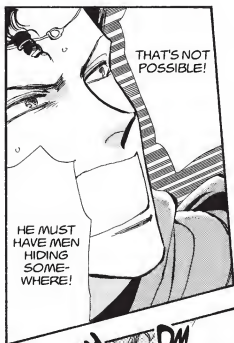
I SEE
SOME-
ONE.

STAY
WITH
ME.

YUNA,
LOOK.

AFTER
THEM!

THEY'RE
REBELS!



HE'S BY HIMSELF!







IT'S
ABOUT
TO
BEGIN!

HEY!

DM DM DM

DMM M

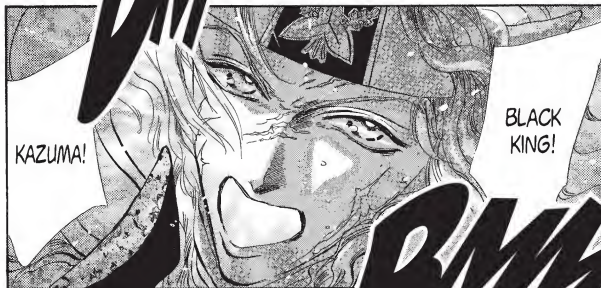
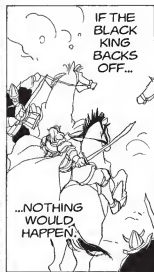
RAAAH

DM DM

DM

YOU TOOK A
GAMBLE OF
STAGGERING
PROPORTIONS.

SHURI...



...ARE
US!

HOWEVER!

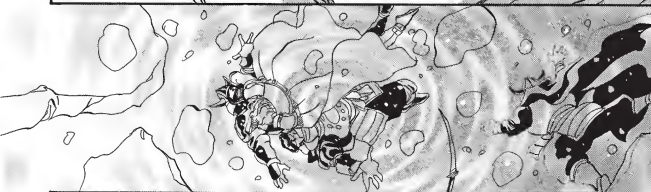
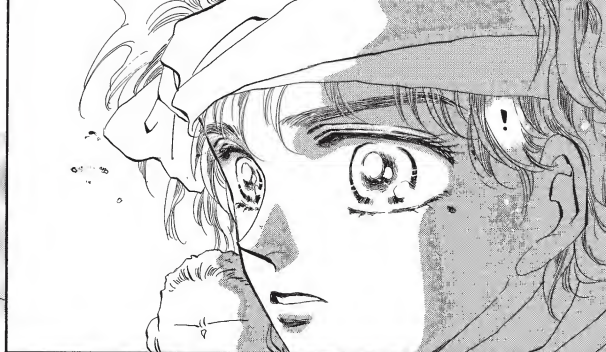
WE WHO
CALL THIS
LAND
HOME!

THE ONES IN
THE
ORCHESTRA...

...ACTU-
ALLY
MAKING
THE
MUSIC...

ICHIMATSU!!





THEN
PRAY.

I
DON'T
KNOW.

I FEEL
LIKE
PRAYIN'.

HMM.
MY
HEART
ACHES.

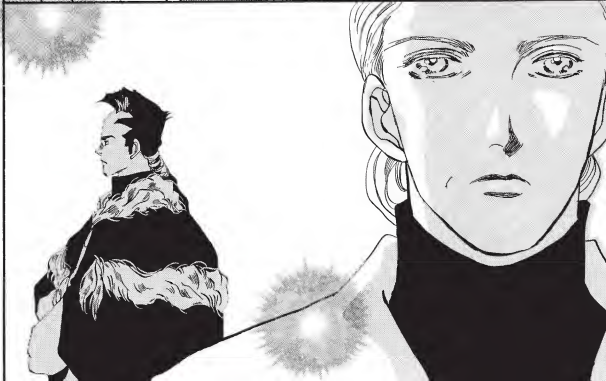
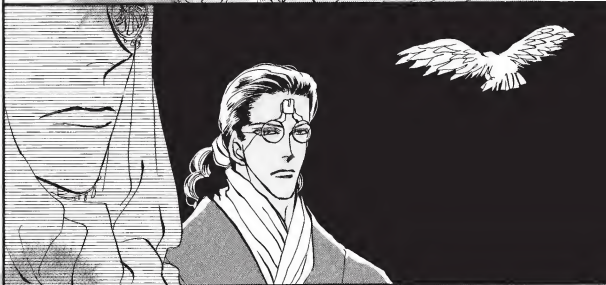
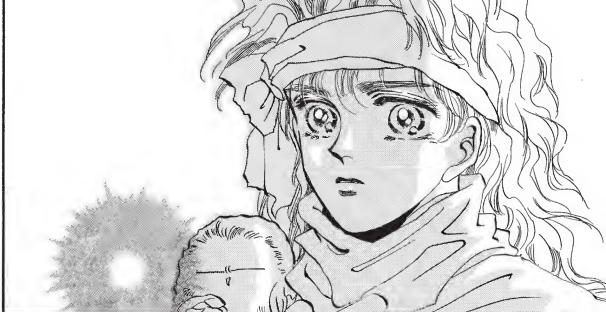
DID YOU
MAKE A
GIRL CRY
AGAIN?

KYOTO...

BOMG.

WHAT'S
WRONG,
TARO?

PRAYER
CAN
MOVE
THE
HEAVENS.





OUR
ARMOR...

IT'S
TOO
HEAVY.

SINKING...

DEEPER
AND
DEEPER...

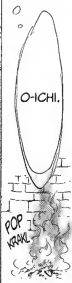
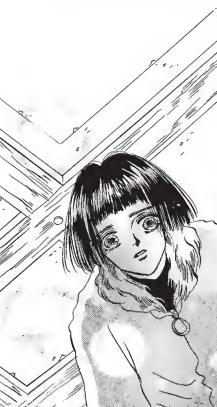


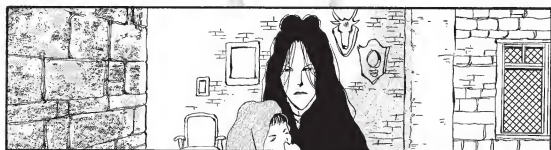
WHY AM I
NOT
SINKING?

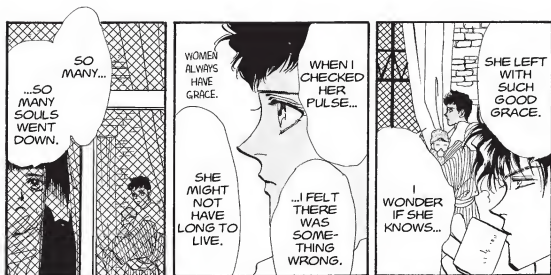
SO WHY...

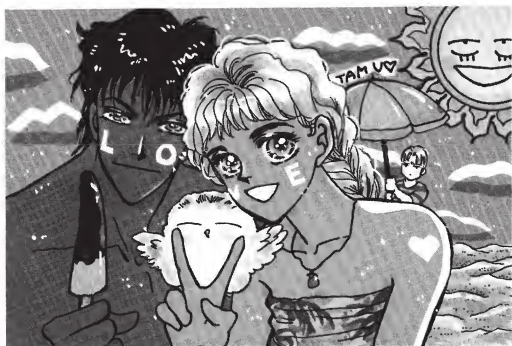
...AM I
STILL
HERE?











THE USUAL BONUS!

GOOD OL'

TAM-TAM TIME

TAMU

Yohoo!

How are you all doing?

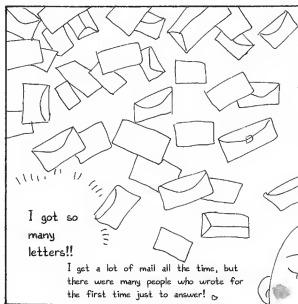
The rainy season is coming soon, so don't get sick!

Then again, it would be summer before this book comes out! Go swim a lot!



BASARA is already up to volume (18). Wow! Please keep up with your support!

Everyone work hard!



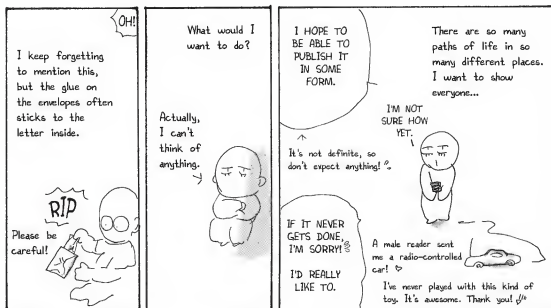
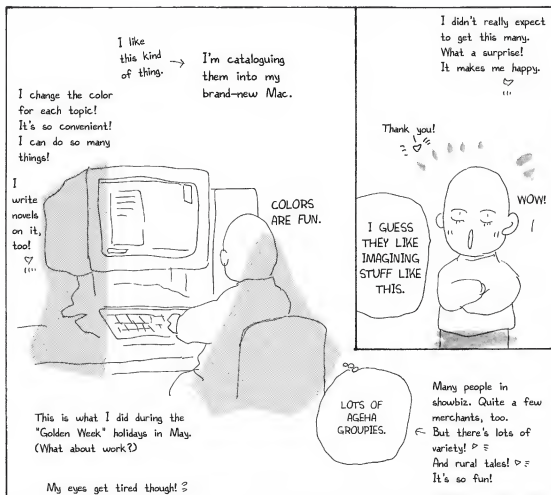
I got so many letters!!

I get a lot of mail all the time, but there were many people who wrote for the first time just to answer!

OOH!?

In volume 17, I asked the question on this sign.

If you lived in the world of BASARA, what kind of life would you like to lead?



It's a little embarrassing,
but please give it a try if
you've never read it. !!
♡

I drew new art
for the cover. I
hadn't drawn Tomoe
in a long time.

HER PHYSIQUE
IS DIFFERENT
FROM
SARASA'S...

She's probably taller, and
she has a chest.

The Shogakukan
pocket edition
of **THERE
GOES TOMOE!**
is coming out!

Guess
what!?

Maybe it's
out already?

OH MY GOSH!



THERE GOES TOMOE! is a manga I drew before
BASARA. It'll be 5 volumes long.

(The content is exactly the same as the regular
edition.)

And the
PSX horror
game "D."

I have to buy
an N64! ☹
I love Mario.

"Bahamut Lagoon"
was fun! ♡
I made good progress
through "Mario RPG"! ♡
And "Treasure of the
Rudras"! ♡

MY EYES GET TIRED!



(I haven't finished "Dragon
Quest" yet.)

I also played various
video games, as usual.
(What about work?)

When the going gets tough, try
not to stress too much.
Pause and think about it.
That's not "avoidance."

Don't be so hard
on yourselves!

SEE YOU!
TAKE CARE!



I drew some
illustrations for another
novel by Canvas Books.
Check it out!

See you again
in vol. (19)!
Check out
Betsu-comi
magazine!

I'm really looking forward to
the next "Final Fantasy"! ♡
....

↑
They're
awesome!

I LOVE SQUARE'S
GAMES BECAUSE THEY
SEEM TO CARE ABOUT
THE DETAILS.

SQUARE GETS
CRITICIZED A LOT...
BUT YOUR FANS ARE
ROOTING FOR YOU!

CAN'T WAIT! ♡



I'm sorry I talk so much
about video games. ☹

TAMU.

EXTRA

Tam-Tam Special

Chocolate, Pathos, and Dropping a Bombshell

One Valentine's Day

TAMU

